



Mackay Christian College Newsletter

2024 Term 3-3

'Christian Education on Purpose'



News from the Principal, Dr Lesley Tunnah

As Term 3 winds down, I reflect upon the many events and projects organised and delivered by the faithful staff of the College. Their high standards of creativity, hard work and dedication result in our students receiving a broad education not just of knowledge but of life skills, values and character development underpinned by the College's focus on Christian values.

This term we farewell Mrs Laura Kilborn from the Secondary College. We thank her very much for her service and care of students and pray all the best for her future adventures. New staff have been engaged for Term 4 and we will welcome them officially in Week 1. We thank God for his faithful provision in all arenas of the College.

The buildings on both King's Park and Providence campuses are steadily receiving a facelift with fresh coats of paint, carpet cleaning and renovations where necessary. The goal is to maintain the College facilities to a high standard. This includes the gardens, which were reshaped in recent weeks and are now beginning to produce new buds and greenery. We thank the College's maintenance team for their consistent hard work with these projects.

Professional development opportunities for our teachers also remain a high priority. As a professional learning community, teachers regularly share ideas, learn of new curriculum adjustments and reflect upon what strategies and resources they might include in their teaching toolbox. This leads to greater student engagement and effective learning. This process never ends – there is always something new to learn and staff devote a significant amount of out-of-class time to ongoing professional development sessions. We are very thankful for a State Government funded training opportunity for the Directors of both the Kindy and OSHCare. As government expectations are modified, this training allows the College to be up-to-date with the provision of student care.

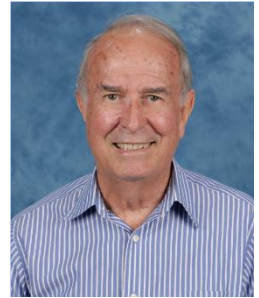
In supporting parents, teachers are also responsible for developing a child's sense of appropriate boundaries, acceptable behaviours and self-responsibility. These lessons may seem difficult in the now, but applied to future roles and workplaces, will assist success in many life arenas including relationships, job stability and general personal satisfaction.

I was recently reminded of a poem by St Ignatius, the founder of the Jesuit brotherhood. His words seem strangely at odds with the self-driven, me-first, influencer culture of our modern world:

'Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give, and not to count the cost, to fight, and not to heed the wounds, to toil, and not to seek for rest, to labour, and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we are doing your will.'

Father God lovingly designs each individual person with a plan and purpose in mind – our task is to discover what that purpose is and then pursue it with all our might. In that, we will discover great joy, peace and satisfaction. May you remain safe through the holiday break.

My prayers and blessings are for you and your family.
Dr Lesley Tunnah



News from the Board Chair,

Ps Rob Booth-Jones

Our school year is closing fast with our Year 12 students finishing their secondary education in just two months. It's a rite of passage and we pray that this remaining time will be profitable in completing exams and finishing well.

Our Executive Team, Dr Tunnah, Ms Wright, Mrs Brownsey, Mr Graham, Mr Hobbs and Mrs Buttle, are leading our school with excellence and I thank them for that on behalf of the MCC community.

On a serious note, I want to share with you a matter of concern for Christians and our school. Last Wednesday night, in the concluding week of sittings before the elections on 26th October, the state government passed legislation which will restrict the right to free speech and place restrictions on the Bible as the basis of truth. I include a quote by Rob Norman from the Australian Christian Lobby as follows:

“Queensland Labor has pulled a death blanket over Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Expression of Religion with the late-night passage of the ‘The Respect at Work and Other Matters Amendment Bill’.

The unelected bureaucrats of the Queensland Human Rights Commission will now have powers to deem any speech that ‘offends, humiliates, or intimidates’ any of a growing list of persons with ‘protected attributes’ as ‘harassment’ or ‘hate speech.’

Effectively this puts severe restrictions on what can be said in the classroom or pulpit. While it covers only certain areas of speech at this stage, it may lead to further restrictive legislation and erosion of freedoms.

I do not want to be seen to espouse politics in this letter, but I ask you to pray as you consider your vote at the state elections in October. Nigel Dalton, who has a long history of involvement with MCC, is the LNP candidate for Mackay. There will be a meet and greet on Sunday 22nd in the Powerhouse foyer at 3pm.

Nigel is a committed Christian and attends the Northern Beaches Baptist Church. He was commissioned as the MCC ‘Adopt a Cop’ in August 2005 and was a sergeant in the Queensland Police Force until his recent retirement. This is a person of honour and commitment who I believe would serve well in the state parliament. His two children did their schooling at MCC. Nigel has also spent many years accompanying Brad Huddleston presentations in schools across Australia, teaching students of the dangers of social media and addiction to digital devices. I encourage your prayer for the election that God might install the government that He wants and we need.

The Federal Government is planning to set an age limit on access to social media and this will be a positive step if properly implemented. I believe we will see improvements in the classroom and in the home as a result.

May God's blessing be upon you.
Ps Rob Booth-Jones



News from the Head of Primary,

Mrs Michelle Brownsey

We are certainly approaching the business end of the year now and at the same time, exciting plans for 2025 are afoot. Smooth transitions are a high priority for us, as we endeavour to maximise student confidence and success.

With this in mind, we have two 'Welcome to Prep' mornings coming up in Term 4, where families may come and enjoy socialising in our Prep classes, meeting the teaching team and future friends, and of course morning tea.

We also have three transition days planned for our Year 6 students in Term 4, occurring in Weeks 4, 6 and 8. The goal of the Year 6 transition visits is for students to begin gaining familiarity with the secondary campus, to meet key teachers, to build connections and to experience a little taste of secondary subjects. Hopefully this will create curiosity and enthusiasm and also allay fears. Please note that the window for parent requests relating to class lists for 2025 closes at the end of Term 3. Though no guarantees can be made, our staff do their best to create well balanced classes that incorporate a broad scope of considerations.

I am excited to announce that Year 5 students in 2025 will be our first Primary cohort to transition to using laptops as their school device. There has been much consideration given to the pros and cons of both iPads and laptops and we believe it is time to roll out this change. If you are to be a parent/carer of a Year 5 student in 2025, more information will be provided to you next term.

Lastly, if you are the parent/carer of a current Year 5 student, please have a chat to your child over the break about whether they feel led to apply for student leadership for Year 6. Applications for 2025 Primary School Captains, Care Ambassadors, House Family Captains and Bridge Builder Mediators will be opening early in Term 4.

Have a blessed Spring break,
Mrs Michelle Brownsey



News from the Head of Secondary

Ms Deb Wright

With September in full swing, we sense the change in season and a sense of excitement rises as we plan towards next year. The teamwork to see progress is wonderful and we are forever thankful for God's provision.

We've had lots of busy bees around the school this last Wednesday with many students dressed in black and yellow for 'R U Okay?' Day in which the Care Ambassadors managed to muster up many yellow cupcakes to appease one's taste buds and raise awareness of the cause.

Since the last newsletter, we have had the Yr 7 Stargazing Night, Yr 10 Career's Expo, Yr 10 Work Experience, Choice Chats, Youth Driver Education and more. On Founder's Day, we celebrated the very beginnings of the College birthed out of Mackay Christian Family, with Ps Rob Booth-Jones casting the vision 41 years ago. Many photos were shared by Dr Tunnah as we walked through the College's history, seeing what God has done.

External exams will begin from Week 4 next term and in that same week we will have our first of three visits from Year 6. The goal is to have them feel more at ease with what they can expect in secondary school life. Next term, Year 9 have the opportunity in Week 10 to attend our annual Reef Trip to Hardly Reef. This is a wonderfully relaxing yet educational day and a good opportunity for students and teachers to connect in a natural outdoor classroom. With the closure of Action Challenge at Timberlands, Year 11 will be stomping on the grounds of Kinchant Dam Education Centre for their leadership camp. They will be challenged to greater heights, especially on the rock-climbing wall!

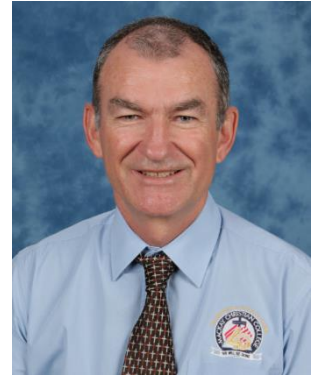
With Celebration events approaching, this year will be organised a little differently. The Year 7-12 Celebration Night will be one combined event on the 12th of November. This will involve all secondary students coming together to celebrate the many wonderful gifts and talents with which they have been blessed. Of utmost value are the Timothy Integrity Excellence Awards reflecting the high value the College places upon good character. If you are a long-standing Celebration Night attendee, you will notice a much more streamlined approach keeping the momentum of the night going to finish at a reasonable time.

I pray the September holidays will bring refreshment after a busy term, with a sense of expectation and excitement as another year quickly approaches. I will close with a scripture that means so much as we look ahead:

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21

Blessings,

Ms Deb Wright.



News from the Head of Academics

Mr Doug Graham

2025 Class lists for elective subjects for Year 7, Year 8, Year 10 and Year 11 are being worked through based on the online web preferences received. It appears that most students will be able to study their top preferences. If a student is not able to be placed in one of the subjects corresponding to their top preferences, their next preference will be used.

A few subjects will not be offered in 2025 due to the low level of interest from students. These are:

- Year 8 Media Arts
- Year 11 Study of Religion
- Year 11 ICT

It should be noted that for a school of our size, we offer a wide range of elective subjects that provide learning pathways that assist our students achieve their career goals.

At the end of week 3 next term, Year 10 students will finish the Year 10 Australian Curriculum. At the beginning of week 4, they will be issued with a new timetable and will begin to study their Year 11 Unit 1 subjects. Year 11 students will begin their Year 12 Unit 3 at this time. Subject changes for Year 10 and 11 students should be finalised early next term.

QCAA has started to release the Confirmation decisions for the final internal assessment for the Year 12 General subjects. Teachers will communicate to students the results of these decisions as they are released. The final reports for Year 12 students will be published early next term. The progressive ratings will be reported on the normal A-E scale. Additionally for general subjects, the reports will include a mark out of 50 or 75 which is the final internal assessment rating.

For Year 11 and 12 students who are undertaking General subjects, this coming term break should not be viewed as a holiday! To achieve a maximum level of success, students should be engaged in a regular study and revision program over the break. Year 11 block exams will begin in week 1 of Term 4 and will continue over the first three weeks. Year 12 students will continue to do mock exams over the first two weeks and then start External Exams in week 4. An exam schedule for Year 11 and 12 students will be published over the next week. Students are expected to be at school during the mock exam period and Year 11 block exam period. Once the Year 12 external exams begin, all Year 12 classes will cease and students only need to be at school for their scheduled external exam blocks.

I wish all our students a well-deserved time of rest over the holidays and much success in their learning journey in Term 4. My prayer is that they will develop and flourish in all areas of their life and will grow a deeper understanding of God's love for them and His plans and purposes for their lives.

"Those that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength, they will rise up with wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" Isaiah 40:31

God bless,
Mr Doug Graham



News from the ICT Manager
Mr Brett Hobbs
'Keeping our students connected'

We are thrilled to announce that the 2025 Year 7 iPads have been ordered! Our dedicated ICT Team will be working hard over the Christmas holidays to prepare these for distribution to students in the first few weeks of the new 2025 school year. The College has secured iPad Gen 10 devices, complete with AppleCare+ and protective cases, at a special volume purchase price of \$610 per student.

Earlier this year, we introduced the new MCC Orbit app. If you haven't downloaded it yet, please take a moment to install the Orbit app and enable notifications. Instructions can be found under the "Mobile Parent Orbit School app" section on the College website. This will ensure you receive important updates directly to your device.

Wishing you and your family well these school holidays. Remember to take some time away from the screens and enjoy a well-deserved break!

God bless,
Brett Hobbs

News from the MCC Parent Association

Dear MCC Families,

Thank you to all the families that supported the Father's Day stall run by the MCC Parent Association Executive team. We are still finalising the profit made with accounts and will let you know this information soon.

Last week at Primary Assembly, the Parent Association presented hats purchased for the Year 6 students and teachers going on camp to Magnetic Island next Term. The hats are red to ensure visibility when out and about in public. Thank you to *Stitched Up* for doing a fantastic job on the embroidery and supplying the hats for us.

PA meetings are usually held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6pm in Faith Centre except during holiday breaks. You are cordially invited to attend to be a part of the PA team. Children are welcome to attend.

At the moment, the main event being planned is the Primary school dance being held on Friday 18th of October. Please feel free to come and share any ideas you have that will make this event successful. We are in need of parent volunteers on the night to help support the event. A sign up link will be posted on the MCC Parent Association Facebook page in the coming weeks. Or please email us at parentassociation@mccmkyl.qld.edu.au to lend your support or make suggestions. If you can't help on the night, there are other jobs leading up to the event where we would appreciate your support eg packing glow stick bags.

The other main item on our agenda is a fundraising opportunity to be held before the end of the year. We would like your feedback as to whether you would prefer a Krispy Kreme or Cookie Dough fundraiser. (Both sound delicious!)

Don't forget to like and follow our Facebook page.

Kind Regards
Tara Drysdale
Secretary



Please remember to check your MCC Calendar for upcoming events!

